Unidata: Student Representative Experience

Sean C. Arms

University of Oklahoma

12 March 2010
Where to begin...
Some Issues
Open Discussion

What a ride!
General Expectations of a Graduate Student
Beyond Expectations
The Unexpected
The VERY Unexpected

Unidata: Student Representative Experience
Student Representative Experience

- General graduate student expectation (for anything!)...
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Slave labor - Never forced to do anything (all volunteer work)
Student Representative Experience

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- No respect - Mutual respect amongst all members
Student Representative Experience

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Student Representative Experience

- Slave labor - Never forced to do anything (all volunteer work)
- No respect - Mutual respect amongst all members
- Illusion of Democracy - Committee member opinion, including my own, matter - a lot!
- The token student - I never felt this was the case.
Student Representative Experience

- Access to UCAR / NCAR staff and facilities
Student Representative Experience

- Access to UCAR / NCAR staff and facilities
- Feeling like I’m part of the team, not a special character
Access to UCAR / NCAR staff and facilities
Feeling like I’m part of the team, not a special character
Co-chair of the workshop
Student Representative Experience

New personal idea of family. Near the end of the 25th anniversary celebration:
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Tom Yoksas cautiously looks around before speaking into the mic
New personal idea of family. Near the end of the 25th anniversary celebration:

Tom Yoksas cautiously looks around before speaking into the mic

[Most of those still here are currently with Unidata or have been in the past,] ”and the rest of you ARE family.”
Personal motivation!
Personal motivation!

Revisiting the topic of metrics - can this be quantified? Well...
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for Sean's Motivation

Period (days)
Limitations to position

- Scalability!
Limitations to position

- Scalability!
- One student representative for all?
Limitations to position

- Scalability!
  - One student representative for all?
- Outreach
Limitations to position

- Scalability!
  - One student representative for all?
- Outreach
  - Student email list
Limitations to position

- Scalability!
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  - Contact student AMS chapters
Limitations to position

- **Scalability!**
  - One student representative for all?

- **Outreach**
  - Student email list
  - Contact student AMS chapters
  - Spread the word at conferences/workshops
Limitations to position

- Scalability!
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  - ++Facebook, Twitter
Limitations to position

- **Scalability!**
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  - Student email list
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  - ++Facebook, Twitter
  - ++Unidata Users Workshops

Optimistic pessimist - It’s only going to get harder, but the solution is just around the corner!

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Unidata: Student Representative Experience
Limitations to position

- **Scalability!**
  - One student representative for all?
- **Outreach**
  - Student email list
  - Contact student AMS chapters
  - Spread the word at conferences/workshops
  - ++Facebook, Twitter
  - ++Unidata Users Workshops
- **Optimistic pessimist -** It’s only going to get harder, but the solution is just around the corner!